

## EDITORIAL

Elsewhere in this issue is printed the appeal of the Club's Endowment Committee for more Life Memberships as a means of providing a much-needed increase in our endowment fund. To members who feel that they cannot take out Life Memberships just now, we would point out that any gift, however small, will be gratefully added to the endowment fund. One such gift has already been received and we hope it will be followed by many more. Won't you write to our Treasurer now and send a contribution?

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This is the time of year when our members are most busy gathering the data that will fill some of the gaps in our knowledge of the breeding habits of birds. Sometimes in the past these efforts have, for lack of guidance, been partly wasted on poorly planned or inadequately recorded observations. Excellent suggestions on exactly what to look for and how best to record it have been published recently by Odum (*Oriole*, 6, 1941: 29-35) and Pitelka (*Auk*, 58, 1941: 608-612). It is really remarkable how incomplete are the files of such data for even the most common species of birds.

## OBITUARY

Vernon Bailey, mammalogist and ornithologist, died in Washington, D.C., on April 20. He was one of the most skillful and experienced of field zoologists and had done pioneer work in many parts of America.

Benjamin T. Gault died at his home in Glen Ellyn, Illinois, on March 20 at the age of 83. He was perhaps most widely known for the section on the birds of Glen Ellyn which he contributed to Frank M. Chapman's great "Handbook." He had been a member of the Wilson Ornithological Club for 47 years.

C. Hart Merriam, founder and for twenty-five years Chief of the U.S. Bureau of Biological Survey, died on March 20 at the age of 86. He was a founder of the American Ornithologists' Union and later was elected its President. His "Life Zone" theory of plant and animal distribution greatly stimulated and guided bird distribution study in this country.

Edward R. Warren, noted Colorado naturalist, died on April 20. He had contributed extensively to our published information on mammals and birds, especially of Colorado.

Casey A. Wood, distinguished bibliographer and authority on the eyes of birds, died in La Jolla, California, on January 26.

## ORNITHOLOGICAL NEWS

John T. Zimmer of the American Museum of Natural History has been appointed Editor of *The Auk*. The fourth to hold this distinguished office, he takes over the editing of volume 59 of the official organ of the American Ornithologists' Union.

Austin L. Rand has been appointed Assistant Zoologist of the National Museum of Canada in Ottawa. He will take charge of ornithology there upon the retirement this month of Percy A. Taverner.

F. L. Jaques spent part of April in Minneapolis, collecting materials and painting a background for a new habitat group of Blue and Snow Geese in the University of Minnesota Museum of Natural History.